

(Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction.

We have directed all of our officials and experts working on these critical matters to expand their cooperation and to consult on strengthening related international efforts.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia on Cooperation in Combating Illegal Narcotics Trafficking

November 13, 2001

We note that illegal narcotics trafficking constitutes a serious threat to the health and well-being of individuals and to international security as a whole. The drug trade is one of the principle sources of financial support for international terrorism.

The United States and Russia are committed to intensifying cooperation on both a bilateral level and within the framework of international organizations and institutions, in order to combat this common threat.

We reaffirm the important role of the UN in strengthening anti-drug cooperation at the global level and reaffirm the two countries' intention to continue the efforts to implement the decisions of the 20th Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the problem of narcotics. At the same time, we wish to continue and expand our regional counternarcotics cooperation with the countries of Central Asia.

We wish to underscore the importance of putting into effect, as soon as possible, the mechanism of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

We intend to intensify the efforts of the Russian-U.S. Working Group on law enforcement, including the issues of combating illegal drug trafficking and the laundering of proceeds derived from criminal activities. We believe that early entry into the force of the Treaty Between the Russian Federation and the United States on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Moscow on June 17, 1999, will promote the expansion

of bilateral cooperation and the coordination of efforts against transnational organized crime and narcotics trafficking.

We agree to seek areas of expanded cooperation between the United States and Russia with the goal of more effectively stopping illegal trafficking in narcotics and preventing and treating drug addiction.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks on Departure for Texas

November 13, 2001

Visit of Russian President Putin/Aviation Security and Economic Stimulus Legislation

Laura and I are looking forward to our meeting with the Putins in Crawford—spend a couple of days down in Texas, working on international affairs.

And I hope the Congress works hard on two issues. First, they must work day and night to get an airline security bill to my desk. We're making good progress, and the Members of Congress must continue to work hard to get a bill. And secondly, I've laid out some ideas on an economic stimulus package, one that encourages consumer spending. Part of it is to encourage business investment, and part of it is to take care of workers who have been affected by the September 11th tragedy.

I hope the Senate will be able to move a bill quickly and to get it into conference and work out the differences. I look forward to signing legislation on both airline security and economic stimulus. My administration is willing to work with the parties to forge the compromise necessary to get a piece of legislation. The American people expect progress. And I do, too, and so I hope we can get something done.

In the meantime, we're making great strides for making the world more peaceful, as we work closely with Russia for security for all the people of the world as well as our own Nation.

We'll see you down there.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia and his wife, Lyudmila. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Arrival in Waco, Texas, and an Exchange With Reporters

November 13, 2001

[*The President's remarks were joined in progress.*]

The President. —Texas. We haven't been back since the war began on September the 11th, and we're delighted to be home. I am also honored to be hosting Vladimir Putin tomorrow. He's going to start off in Houston, and then he's going to come over to Crawford, Texas. He has a—he's been a great—about how to improve our relations, about how to cooperate more—wide variety of issues, and we will continue the dialog tomorrow. I can't wait for him to get to see Texas.

I made the decision that we'd have formal things in Washington—we'd have formal meetings in Washington, but it's also very important for him to get to see the finest State of all 50, in my judgment. He'll also get a taste of rural life here in Texas. He'll get to see Houston, and he's also going to get to come to Crawford. And it's going to be such an honor for us to receive him here.

We're making great progress on the war. I have great confidence in the ability of the U.S. military, but I've even got greater confidence in the people of our country. We're united; we're strong; we're determined; and we will prevail. We're going to win this war. And we're glad to be home and looking forward to spending time here.

Humanitarian Aid Workers

Q. Mr. President, what about the two girls that are being detained in Afghanistan? What do you think about their current situation?

The President. Well, we're working. I know one of them is from this area.

Q. I think from Baylor?

The President. Yes. And we have made it clear to the Taliban that we expect them to be treated humanely. I hope they listen to our request. We're obviously very concerned about their safety. Our military is very

aware that they're in that part of the world, and we are doing everything we can—gathering—to make sure they stay out of harm's way. It's up to the Taliban, however, to protect them. We expect them to do so.

Visit of Russian President Putin

Q. Mr. President, how important is this meeting tomorrow?

The President. Well, it's a continuation of a series of meetings I've had with him. I met with him in Slovenia and then Shanghai, and of course, today we had a long series of meetings, announced some major initiatives.

One initiative I announced is something I campaigned on. I said that we would—in order to get rid of the vestiges of the past—would reduce our nuclear arsenal, our offensive weapons, of nuclear warheads to a level commensurate with keeping the peace and at the same time signaling loud and clear that we need a new relationship with Russia. And I did that. We're also going to talk about missile defense, the ABM Treaty.

He has got some concerns about getting rid of the ABM Treaty. I've listened very carefully to him, but I've made the case to him that we need to move beyond the vestiges of the past in order to address the true threats facing our nation and his nation, and that is the ability of some terrorist nation to end up with a weapon of mass destruction, which could hold each of us hostage and/or cause serious harm to our people.

Q. Mr. President—

The President. Well, we're going to be riding John Deere Gators. They're a little more compassionate than some horses. We're going to have a barbecue tomorrow night. A local resident, David Sibley, is coming and his wife, Pam. We've got a friend of ours from Buffalo Gap, Texas, who will be cooking the barbecue. Laura has ordered up a swing band.

And then Thursday morning we'll go for a—down, boy—that's Barney, by the way. [Laughter]

Mrs. Bush. And this is Spot.

The President. And Spot.

And we'll go for a couple of nice, long walks. The best diplomacy starts with getting to know each other. And I want him to know